



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

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MINING INDUSTRIES HONORED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Board of Oil, Gas and Mining to Present Earth Day Awards

“It is a popular misconception that oil, gas, and mining companies are enemies of the environment,” said Jim Peacock, Chairman of the Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining. “The fact is extractive industries have matured as society has changed, and industry has embraced the notion of environmental stewardship.”

The Utah Board of Oil, Gas and Mining will present 2006 Earth Day Awards to six mining operations, a construction company, and an energy education foundation on Wednesday, April 26, 2006, in the auditorium of the Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. The presentations will be made during a ceremony beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Board of Oil, Gas and Mining Earth Day Awards recognize companies, organizations and individuals who exceed regulatory requirements in protecting the environment while providing essential natural resources. “Industry expends a tremendous amount of time, money and resources to protect the environment while in pursuit of natural resources,” stressed Peacock. “And, when operations cease, money and resources are expended to restore the land to pre-extractive uses.”

2006 Earth Day Awards will be presented to:

- The National Energy Foundation for continued excellence in providing educational programs related to the environment, mining, natural resources and energy.
- Canyon Fuel Company’s Skyline Mine for providing assistance in the form of laboratory gas analysis to the Utah Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program’s efforts to research an underground coal mine fire in an abandoned mine in Carbon County.

(more)

- Canyon Fuel Company's SUFCO Mine for voluntarily participating in a cooperative project for Sage-Grouse habitat improvement with the Manti-La-Sal National Forest.
- Energy West Mining Company for outstanding final reclamation and site restoration of its Des-Bee-Dove mines in Emery County.
- Plateau Mining Corporation for outstanding final reclamation and site restoration at the Star Point Mine in Carbon County.
- Barrick Gold of North America, Inc. for voluntarily reclaiming an area of subsidence at a formerly mined property near Moab, and providing financial assistance to the Utah Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program to seal abandoned mines in the Mercur Mine site area and Ophir Canyon project area.
- Simplot Phosphate, LLC for its continued efforts to educate the public about mining, reclamation and post-mining land use at its facility in Uintah County.
- Nielson Construction Company for setting a standard of excellence in numerous mine reclamation projects that other operators and contractors seek to emulate.

The Earth Day Awards program was begun in 1991 and since that date more than 100 nominations have been reviewed and more than 70 awards have been presented. For more information about Earth Day Awards and the Board and Division of Oil, Gas and Mining check out our website at www.ogm.utah.gov.

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